













# Politicians seen as most corrupt worldwide

## In RP and 12 other nations, more than 50% believe corruption has worsened

**SINGAPORE** — POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS like parliaments, police and judicial systems are the most corrupt bodies in the world, and more than half of respondents in the Philippines and 12 other nations believe corruption has worsened a lot in these countries, according to a global study of perceptions of corruption published Friday.

### Corruption barometer

For the second year running, respondents to its survey of 60 countries worldwide gave political parties at the top of the list by both index and index, global survey group Transparency International said.

They were followed by police

forces or legislatures and the judicial system and judiciary. The 55,000-person survey "Global Corruption Barometer 2006" found.

The problem also extends to education, with serious consequences for students and the development of countries' economies. TI said in a separate report titled "Stealing the Future: Corruption in the Classroom".

### Anti-corruption day

Anti-corruption day was observed in association with the United Nations International anti-corruption day.

Overall, citizens of 48 countries believed corruption had increased over the last three years

while citizens of 16 other countries — Colombia, Georgia, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Kenya and Singapore — said it had decreased.

In 12 countries — Bolivia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, India, Israel, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines and Venezuela — more than 50 percent felt corruption had increased a lot.

Algeria and Latin Americans felt more negative about the past.

### Perceptions

The survey offered a more mixed bag. 12 countries reported corruption to fall but 14 countries were pessimistic about turning the situation around.

TI chair Huguette Labelle described corruption as "a major problem of our times."

"It most deeply impacts on the poor," she said. "If people are pessimistic, their welfare declines and the economy suffers."

### Call for alarm

"The results of the survey are a call for alarm for people. It is a change, but a negative leadership will not prevent it."

The 45-page whitepaper report also assessed corruption in 30 countries including India, to assess a child's admission to school or to post-secondary studies.

"A basic textbook and a good grade should not depend on paying the price of a corrupt

teacher or administrator," said Labelle.

"Your parents who are forced to pay up may choose instead to limit their children, leaving a generation gap of students without a proper education and perpetuating the poverty trap," she added.

### Basic values

The report said such problems in schools and universities contributed "basic values of integrity, respect and the public good" and helped perpetuating the problem by fostering a negative perception of authority and institutions.

For example, it said an opinion poll at two major universities in Buenos Aires reported

that 60 percent believed for paying to pass and selling diplomas were commonplace on campus.

### Cost of corruption

In Brazil, a study found that poor municipalities lost up to 10 percent of their federal school subsidies to fraud in procurement.

In Mexico, the average family reportedly paid \$30 dollars each year in bribes and before the survey to reportedly their education.

Efforts are, however, being made to combat the problem, TI said, citing justice reform measures in Ecuador which created school finance as a successful anti-fraud measure.

AP

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## NORTHRAIL-SOUTHRAIL LINK

## Seoul to fund new P2.7-B rail project

By Vol Canaves

AFTER THE CONTROVERSIAL NORTHRAIL, another long-planned train project for Metro Manila and surrounding areas is set for a high-profile launch next week.

Visiting South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun will join President Macapagal-Arroyo in launching the Northrail-Southern Linkage Project, the Department of Foreign Affairs announced yesterday.

Financed through a \$10.42-billion (about P2.7 billion) soft loan was secured through Korean Export-Import Bank, the NSRP will modernize the Philippine National Railway service from Calabarzon to Alabang, the DFA said.

It involves the procurement of 22 diesel-hauled rail cars, construction of a double-track line, and the upgrade of PSRs signals and communication systems, the agency added.

Roh will be in Manila for a state visit on

Dec. 14 to 15. It will be his second meeting with Mr. Arroyo in return for her state visit to Seoul in June 2003.

The two leaders will also inaugurate the R&D Korea Information Technology Center in Quezon City and are expected to sign agreements in

the areas of social security, construction, road works and mineral resources.

South Korean investments account for 25.5 percent of the total direct foreign investments that entered the country this year. Among the heaviest

Korean investments are in country-side electrification.

South Korea is the ninth largest trading partner of the Philippines. Its citizens accounted for 15.5 percent of the foreign tourists who visited the country last year.



ROH

## EU, Asean observe 25th anniversary of cooperation

THE EUROPEAN UNION IS CELEBRATING this week the 25th anniversary of its cooperation agreement with Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

In a statement, Martin Ferrero-Waldner, European commissioner for external relations and European neighborhood policy, noted the "profound and positive transformation" of Southeast Asia and the important changes that had swept the EU since 1993.

"Poverty has been reduced at an unprecedented pace, economies enjoy impressive growth rates, and democracy is gaining ground" in Asean, Ferrero-Waldner said.

"And while Asean has expanded to include Brunei, Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, the EU has undertaken its own enlargement, growing to 25 countries," she said, adding:

"We have also adopted the world's first single currency and emerged as a political entity on the world scene."

Ferrero-Waldner said the best way to celebrate the "strong and deep relationship" of the two alliances was to reflect on how much "closer" Asean and the EU had become through "working together politically, economically and socially, and at the same time looking forward to an even stronger partnership in the years to come."

The EU is Asean's second largest export market and the third largest trading partner after the United States and Japan, the commissioner noted.

She added: "Naturally the EU supports Asean's efforts to build greater regional cooperation. The European case demonstrates that greater integration is the best guarantee of stability and prosperity."

"We await with keen interest the outcome of the next Asean summit in Kuala Lumpur, and especially the announcement of an Asean Charter reinforcing its common institutions and decision-making process."

"We applaud these steps forward and we always stand ready to share our own experience with Asean in the field of integration."

"In today's globalized world, there is untold value in deepening links no matter how far geographically we may lie apart."

## Mapua High '85 reunion

THE MAPUA HIGH School class of 1985 will hold its 20th year reunion on Dec. 29, 2005, at 6 p.m. at the CATS Dance in The New World Renaissance Hotel in Makati City.

For details, call Melaine "Toni" Cobles at tel. no. 927-8013079; Judith Alga, 927-9310152; or Jodi Alga, 928-9015129.









# Jetliner slides off runway at Chicago airport

CHICAGO—A BOEING 777-300ER jet landed on runway 28L at O'Hare International Airport and slid off a runway and crashed through a boundary fence, sending a huge wave of debris into the air and causing a major traffic jam on the highway, according to a spokesman for the airport. The jet, which was carrying 121 passengers and 10 crew members, was on its final approach to runway 28L when it slid off the runway and crashed through a boundary fence, sending a huge wave of debris into the air and causing a major traffic jam on the highway, according to a spokesman for the airport.

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from Baltimore, Maryland, on the US east coast to the Midwestern city of Chicago.

The Federal Aviation Administration said the plane did not hit the runway at the northern corner of the airport, through the boundary fence and into the road.

The airplane's nose was crushed and a severely damaged engine was on the ground, Chicago City Department spokesman Larry Langford said.

Chicago's second-largest airport, O'Hare, is a major hub for the airline and is used by more than 100 airlines to transport to and from Chicago.

A statement from Southwest Airlines said the jet was on its final approach to runway 28L when it slid off the runway and crashed through a boundary fence, sending a huge wave of debris into the air and causing a major traffic jam on the highway, according to a spokesman for the airport.

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of the plane.

The passengers were told to get out of the plane and to get to the nearest exit as quickly as possible.

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local and FBI officials from Washington, more than 100 miles from Chicago, are investigating.

James Baker, a former NSA chairman, and other officials are also investigating the crash, according to a spokesman for the airport.

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## Special Christmas present: Couple's kid may be alive a year after tsunami

NEWCASTLE, ENGLAND—A year after the tsunami, a couple in Newcastle, England, are looking for their 5-year-old son who was missing in the tsunami.

The couple, who are looking for their 5-year-old son who was missing in the tsunami, are looking for their 5-year-old son who was missing in the tsunami.

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UNIDENTIFIED photos released earlier in the tsunami, showing a couple in Newcastle, England, looking for their 5-year-old son who was missing in the tsunami.

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South Korean lawmakers are looking for their 5-year-old son who was missing in the tsunami.



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## Clock starts to tick at UN climate talks

MONTREAL—ON TUESDAY, the clock starts to tick at the United Nations climate change talks in Montreal.

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## US officials defend fatal airport shooting

WASHINGTON—US OFFICIALS on Thursday defended the fatal shooting of a 19-year-old man at an airport.

The shooting occurred at the airport on Thursday.

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### Who will win P1 MILLION?

Team	Members	Start Date	End Date
1. Team USA	John Smith, Jane Doe	Jan 1, 2007	Jan 31, 2007
2. Team Canada	Mike Johnson, Sarah Lee	Feb 1, 2007	Feb 28, 2007
3. Team Australia	David Brown, Emily White	Mar 1, 2007	Mar 31, 2007
4. Team New Zealand	Chris Green, Anna Black	Apr 1, 2007	Apr 30, 2007
5. Team South Africa	Mark Grey, Lisa Pink	May 1, 2007	May 31, 2007
6. Team India	Ravi Reddy, Priya Singh	Jun 1, 2007	Jun 30, 2007
7. Team China	Wang Wei, Zhang Li	Jul 1, 2007	Jul 31, 2007
8. Team Japan	Tanaka Hiroshi, Sato Yuki	Aug 1, 2007	Aug 31, 2007
9. Team Korea	Kim Min-jun, Lee So-young	Sep 1, 2007	Sep 30, 2007
10. Team Thailand	Chaiyapoom, Nattapong	Oct 1, 2007	Oct 31, 2007
11. Team Vietnam	Nguyen Van, Tran Thi	Nov 1, 2007	Nov 30, 2007
12. Team Philippines	Dela Cruz, Garcia	Dec 1, 2007	Dec 31, 2007
13. Team Indonesia	Pratiwi, Wibisono	Jan 1, 2008	Jan 31, 2008
14. Team Malaysia	Iskandar, Yusoff	Feb 1, 2008	Feb 28, 2008
15. Team Singapore	Lim Guan, Tan Joo	Mar 1, 2008	Mar 31, 2008
16. Team Brunei	Hasan, Hafiz	Apr 1, 2008	Apr 30, 2008
17. Team Timor-Leste	Almeida, Soares	May 1, 2008	May 31, 2008
18. Team East Timor	Almeida, Soares	Jun 1, 2008	Jun 30, 2008
19. Team Palau	Ngirar, Ngirar	Jul 1, 2008	Jul 31, 2008
20. Team Micronesia	Ngirar, Ngirar	Aug 1, 2008	Aug 31, 2008
21. Team Marshall Islands	Ngirar, Ngirar	Sep 1, 2008	Sep 30, 2008
22. Team Kiribati	Ngirar, Ngirar	Oct 1, 2008	Oct 31, 2008
23. Team Tuvalu	Ngirar, Ngirar	Nov 1, 2008	Nov 30, 2008
24. Team Nauru	Ngirar, Ngirar	Dec 1, 2008	Dec 31, 2008
25. Team Samoa	Ngirar, Ngirar	Jan 1, 2009	Jan 31, 2009
26. Team Tonga	Ngirar, Ngirar	Feb 1, 2009	Feb 28, 2009
27. Team Vanuatu	Ngirar, Ngirar	Mar 1, 2009	Mar 31, 2009
28. Team Solomon Islands	Ngirar, Ngirar	Apr 1, 2009	Apr 30, 2009
29. Team Papua New Guinea	Ngirar, Ngirar	May 1, 2009	May 31, 2009
30. Team Fiji	Ngirar, Ngirar	Jun 1, 2009	Jun 30, 2009
31. Team New Caledonia	Ngirar, Ngirar	Jul 1, 2009	Jul 31, 2009
32. Team French Polynesia	Ngirar, Ngirar	Aug 1, 2009	Aug 31, 2009
33. Team Wallis and Futuna	Ngirar, Ngirar	Sep 1, 2009	Sep 30, 2009
34. Team French Southern Territories	Ngirar, Ngirar	Oct 1, 2009	Oct 31, 2009
35. Team Cook Islands	Ngirar, Ngirar	Nov 1, 2009	Nov 30, 2009
36. Team Niue	Ngirar, Ngirar	Dec 1, 2009	Dec 31, 2009
37. Team Tokelau	Ngirar, Ngirar	Jan 1, 2010	Jan 31, 2010
38. Team Northern Mariana Islands	Ngirar, Ngirar	Feb 1, 2010	Feb 28, 2010
39. Team American Samoa	Ngirar, Ngirar	Mar 1, 2010	Mar 31, 2010
40. Team Guam	Ngirar, Ngirar	Apr 1, 2010	Apr 30, 2010
41. Team Northern Mariana Islands	Ngirar, Ngirar	May 1, 2010	May 31, 2010
42. Team American Samoa	Ngirar, Ngirar	Jun 1, 2010	Jun 30, 2010
43. Team Guam	Ngirar, Ngirar	Jul 1, 2010	Jul 31, 2010
44. Team Northern Mariana Islands	Ngirar, Ngirar	Aug 1, 2010	Aug 31, 2010
45. Team American Samoa	Ngirar, Ngirar	Sep 1, 2010	Sep 30, 2010
46. Team Guam	Ngirar, Ngirar	Oct 1, 2010	Oct 31, 2010
47. Team Northern Mariana Islands	Ngirar, Ngirar	Nov 1, 2010	Nov 30, 2010
48. Team American Samoa	Ngirar, Ngirar	Dec 1, 2010	Dec 31, 2010
49. Team Guam	Ngirar, Ngirar	Jan 1, 2011	Jan 31, 2011
50. Team Northern Mariana Islands	Ngirar, Ngirar	Feb 1, 2011	Feb 28, 2011
51. Team American Samoa	Ngirar, Ngirar	Mar 1, 2011	Mar 31, 2011
52. Team Guam	Ngirar, Ngirar	Apr 1, 2011	Apr 30, 2011
53. Team Northern Mariana Islands	Ngirar, Ngirar	May 1, 2011	May 31, 2011
54. Team American Samoa	Ngirar, Ngirar	Jun 1, 2011	Jun 30, 2011
55. Team Guam	Ngirar, Ngirar	Jul 1, 2011	Jul 31, 2011
56. Team Northern Mariana Islands	Ngirar, Ngirar	Aug 1, 2011	Aug 31, 2011
57. Team American Samoa	Ngirar, Ngirar	Sep 1, 2011	Sep 30, 2011
58. Team Guam	Ngirar, Ngirar	Oct 1, 2011	Oct 31, 2011
59. Team Northern Mariana Islands	Ngirar, Ngirar	Nov 1, 2011	Nov 30, 2011
60. Team American Samoa	Ngirar, Ngirar	Dec 1, 2011	Dec 31, 2011
61. Team Guam	Ngirar, Ngirar	Jan 1, 2012	Jan 31, 2012
62. Team Northern Mariana Islands	Ngirar, Ngirar	Feb 1, 2012	Feb 28, 2012
63. Team American Samoa	Ngirar, Ngirar	Mar 1, 2012	Mar 31, 2012
64. Team Guam	Ngirar, Ngirar	Apr 1, 2012	Apr 30, 2012
65. Team Northern Mariana Islands	Ngirar, Ngirar	May 1, 2012	May 31, 2012
66. Team American Samoa	Ngirar, Ngirar	Jun 1, 2012	Jun 30, 2012
67. Team Guam	Ngirar, Ngirar	Jul 1, 2012	Jul 31, 2012
68. Team Northern Mariana Islands	Ngirar, Ngirar	Aug 1, 2012	Aug 31, 2012
69. Team American Samoa	Ngirar, Ngirar	Sep 1, 2012	Sep 30, 2012
70. Team Guam	Ngirar, Ngirar	Oct 1, 2012	Oct 31, 2012
71. Team Northern Mariana Islands	Ngirar, Ngirar	Nov 1, 2012	Nov 30, 2012
72. Team American Samoa	Ngirar, Ngirar	Dec 1, 2012	Dec 31, 2012
73. Team Guam	Ngirar, Ngirar	Jan 1, 2013	Jan 31, 2013
74. Team Northern Mariana Islands	Ngirar, Ngirar	Feb 1, 2013	Feb 28, 2013
75. Team American Samoa	Ngirar, Ngirar	Mar 1, 2013	Mar 31, 2013
76. Team Guam	Ngirar, Ngirar	Apr 1, 2013	Apr 30, 2013
77. Team Northern Mariana Islands	Ngirar, Ngirar	May 1, 2013	May 31, 2013
78. Team American Samoa	Ngirar, Ngirar	Jun 1, 2013	Jun 30, 2013
79. Team Guam	Ngirar, Ngirar	Jul 1, 2013	Jul 31, 2013
80. Team Northern Mariana Islands	Ngirar, Ngirar	Aug 1, 2013	Aug 31, 2013
81. Team American Samoa	Ngirar, Ngirar	Sep 1, 2013	Sep 30, 2013
82. Team Guam	Ngirar, Ngirar	Oct 1, 2013	Oct 31, 2013
83. Team Northern Mariana Islands	Ngirar, Ngirar	Nov 1, 2013	Nov 30, 2013
84. Team American Samoa	Ngirar, Ngirar	Dec 1, 2013	Dec 31, 2013
85. Team Guam	Ngirar, Ngirar	Jan 1, 2014	Jan 31, 2014
86. Team Northern Mariana Islands	Ngirar, Ngirar	Feb 1, 2014	Feb 28, 2014
87. Team American Samoa	Ngirar, Ngirar	Mar 1, 2014	Mar 31, 2014
88. Team Guam	Ngirar, Ngirar	Apr 1, 2014	Apr 30, 2014
89. Team Northern Mariana Islands	Ngirar, Ngirar	May 1, 2014	May 31, 2014
90. Team American Samoa	Ngirar, Ngirar	Jun 1, 2014	Jun 30, 2014
91. Team Guam	Ngirar, Ngirar	Jul 1, 2014	Jul 31, 2014
92. Team Northern Mariana Islands	Ngirar, Ngirar	Aug 1, 2014	Aug 31, 2014
93. Team American Samoa	Ngirar, Ngirar	Sep 1, 2014	Sep 30, 2014
94. Team Guam	Ngirar, Ngirar	Oct 1, 2014	Oct 31, 2014
95. Team Northern Mariana Islands	Ngirar, Ngirar	Nov 1, 2014	Nov 30, 2014
96. Team American Samoa	Ngirar, Ngirar	Dec 1, 2014	Dec 31, 2014
97. Team Guam	Ngirar, Ngirar	Jan 1, 2015	Jan 31, 2015
98. Team Northern Mariana Islands	Ngirar, Ngirar	Feb 1, 2015	Feb 28, 2015
99. Team American Samoa	Ngirar, Ngirar	Mar 1, 2015	Mar 31, 2015
100. Team Guam	Ngirar, Ngirar	Apr 1, 2015	



## Muslims to guard Indonesia churches

JAKARTA—VOLUNTEERS from Indonesia's largest Muslim organization will help guard churches on Christmas Eve after warnings that militants may strike during the holiday season, the group said Friday.

Indonesia's intelligence agency warned on Wednesday that information indicated extremists may be planning attacks over the Christmas-New Year period in large cities across the sprawling archipelago, including Jakarta.

Members of Basmat, a group of youths who wear military-style uniforms and are affiliated with the Nahdlatul Ulama (NU), will be posted to churches nationwide to guard against extremist attacks, NU deputy chair Masdar Masudi said.

"It's our tradition. It is our obligation to protect one another as members of the nation," Masudi told AFP.

He did not say how many volunteers would be deployed to the world's largest Muslim-populated nation but said Basmat had about 4,000 members nationwide who could help. AFP



# New Smooth

## MILD SEVEN

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**MILD SEVEN LIGHTS**

100% TOBACCO BLEND  
NO FLAVORING, NO ADDED SUGAR

**Government Warning:**  
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.













# INQUIRER *Visayas*

Editor: Jan Bandayad  
 Bureau Chief: Edgardo L. Blandino

## Big brother to Iloilo's street kids

By Ph. Steve Labiano  
 Iloilo City

**UPON HEARING THEM, CHILDREN WORKING AND LIVING on the streets of Iloilo City would rush to hug his shirt, borrow his mobile phone and beg him. He is a big brother, an idol and someone who is always on the side of abandoned, run-away and abused children.**

John Thomas Montilla, 28, leads Galery, short for the "Kathangay Galery sa Posinghan Posinghan" (Our Galery for Peace) (tag), a private group that addresses the needs of street children, aside from counseling services, the group provides a halfway house and incorporation as to how to protect the street children from exploitation, sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS.

It was not easy for Montilla and his colleagues in Galery. They work inside their community and are considered by some groups and parents who find the actions of street children should not be excused. This, despite the fact that Galery's program has been recognized by the Philippine and all over the world.

In 2001, Galery won the national search for The Exemplified Youth Organizations in the Philippines given by the National Youth Commission. It was cited for its innovative and revolutionary work in organizing, promoting love and giving to the street and underprivileged children.

The following year, Montilla received the YouthAchiever award sponsored by the International Youth Foundation (IFY) and Delta. The award recognizes outstanding youth leadership and its given to 20 young people every year.

Montilla received \$500 and the chance to be trained on how to run a project and meet global donors and leading names of youth projects in September in London.

He and his other 19 youth leaders will compete for the \$1,000 fund given by the Ford Youth Project. He is expected to return on Christmas Day. He dreams about it,

His child will be a better gift.

### Unresolved family issues

With the family case relative issue, something that Montilla has not seen before.

One TV network offered to stage his life in a weekly drama on real life stories. He will be about the issue of a young man, Nigro, who became a street child but later became a youth activist.

Montilla said he became his, but does not want to further state his relationship with Nigro in Nigro's childhood. He does not want to pay them in his life.

"What I have fully heard myself, I want to see them again, maybe not to return but to help them. As far as I don't have power of mind because I haven't received such from them," he said.

Montilla and his wife when he was 14 after a fight with his parents who were he returned to his home. He started the search of himself, he was a group of other children. Sometimes, he was alone to himself, place near the city. He stayed in the public place and streets, and started by begging, selling, going to the park, looking for jobs, meeting, making friends, and promoting himself.

When he was 18, he was enrolled in a work year but continued to work. After graduation, he worked for Nigro's Posinghan Co., but was after he worked outside house to work with his family. Despite having other friends, he started to think that he would like to live with his family but he was not.

Eight months after his first with his



**JOHN THOMAS MONTILLA** with some of the street children he is helping. The "Kathangay Galery sa Posinghan Posinghan," a private group that addresses the needs of children living and working on the streets in Iloilo City.

shopping company, Montilla was doing some and found himself in Iloilo City. He lived with a family in a clean community, and to accept the reality and his life, he was often on the street.

### Working student

While working in several fast food outlets, he was inspired by the memory of a student who struggled to get a college education. He decided to pursue his dream of becoming a student by attending in biological science at the West Negros State University.

Montilla started his education by helping his mother check his papers and working in the university food. When he was a student, he was a "youth activist" under the name of a private student with the Department of Social Policy and Development. He was a member of his education. In terms, he worked with students and street children, especially those engaged in commercial sex but also those who were in prostitution from sexually transmitted infections.

first home in other government and street children's organizations.

"The street gives the children a sense of violence, it's their habitat. We cannot address their problems by keeping them out of the street. They have a right to be there and need a living. It is not fair to make the street a safe place," he said.

### Children as partners

Unlike other groups that consider street children as a "target" group, Galery considers them first as partners and peers, giving them the responsibility and making them the main responsibility of Galery.

Montilla and his work peers in his meeting and program. "I feel that I have been leading by their side."

More than 100 children live and work on the streets of Iloilo City. But only a handful are being served by Galery due to its limited funds and resources. Montilla said, he has half of the street children and is providing them, sometimes without any return.

Virginia Alvarado, Montilla's wife, is leading in Galery, and the group is conducting a study on its work among the street children.

The children are vulnerable, their needs are unknown, and there are no government or private organizations serving to their social health needs.

Aside from working with street children, Montilla and his colleagues are working to form a group called "The United Youth Children's Project (UYCP)" to make sure children on Iloilo City in Iloilo City and outside. The two areas are among the regions in Iloilo City's poorest, away from the centers.

Many young people have little about Iloilo City's problems, said Dr. Roberto C. Alvarado, United representative to the Philippines in his message during the World AIDS Day celebration in Iloilo City on Dec. 1.

According to a recent health study, half of the 12 to 20-year-olds surveyed in Iloilo City and Cebu were infected with AIDS in 2000, he said.

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## Luisita farmers insist on having land

By Marsha E. Skuse

FRESH OUT OF A MULTIMILLION-PESO LABOR deal, farmworkers of the Hacienda Laista yesterday said they were willing to give up their employee benefits in exchange for land.

He proposed a call by the Washington Lambda Institute, members of the L.W.I. he urged land, for an economic settlement on the agricultural land as well.

“Our position will not change. The land must be distributed. That’s non-negotiable. We’re not going to talk or negotiate other than 500 hectares,” Gudiño said in a press briefing in Quito on Tuesday.

Pollard, the relationship, the benefits gained under the labor agreement could be far greater in the construction of the AMT plant.

"It's really not as much anymore. After 30 years of being under DDT, we are one way from the land. There is not much we can do with the benefits of rice or rice straw every week, but if we lose the land, we're sure we can find

Galang is also president of the Throat up-yege Akkuyagwanng Inuit up Thewasik Linnit, who petitioned the Department of Indian Affairs to consider the

LIUM's 5,000 members get an  
in go back to work on Monday af-  
ter receiving P&G's \$12 million (not \$15  
million as earlier reported) stock  
option and bonus, along with  
\$200,000 for each of its chapters in  
the 100-state program.

The USTR has also been given the right to convene a new FTA panel, less worthy of respect and control than the procedure from the union.

The Coastal Agreement to Terminate Labor Japan is set to receive a \$2.1 million labor package for its first members on Dec. 15. The factory would open on Monday after 13 months of being an open industrial zone to the public.

"That's the reality from the furnace," EPRC demands. As critics have argued,

Members of the 7th Infantry Battalion, 48th W and 78th W brigades have been deployed to Laotian base camps, building new defense lines, or setting booms in the Hoangson, Khe said.

The military said there was no deployment of troops to Myanmar, Malaysia and India; the armed force continued to patrol the border nights and have even conducted operations in Myanmar, India.

A row of colorful, cartoonish boats shaped like fish or dragons, floating on a body of water. In the background, a small boat with several people is visible.

**FLOATING DUCKS** Reginald's time in the military days didn't end, according to officials, his travel around following the city about with military personnel. Operators of boats like those decorated this date in Burnham Park, according to their share in the the parade.

## SC orders Esperat slay case moved to Cebu



**GENERAL SANTOS CITY.**—The Supreme Court has granted the petition asking the warden of remission of the term of the Machine Operator, sent from Zamboanga City, Soliman Eudisto to Calicut City.

Lorenzo Nolasco Ramos said the Second Division of the Highest Tribunal came up with the resolution on Nov. 25 which was released while on Dec. 28.

Justice considered the Supreme Court's decision as a partial victory in their quest for justice for the journalist Machine Operator, who was pinned down on

She said all the records of the August murder trial, including the three suspects now charged in the General James City Act, will be forwarded to the Corps regional headquarters.

It is not yet certain which among the regional courts in Little Rock would handle the August murder case.

"The case has to be tried fast. But we are very happy

The expert family lawyer said, who was expecting a trial for the case unless the issue is transferred.

The former revealed that in 2003, Kasper, who was then acting as chief counsel to the agriculture official in the state, pushed him before the vote of then Wisconsin Circuit Court Judge William Griesmer.

December is usually a good month to visit. In July, the humidity is unbearable, and the humidity is unbearable. In July, the humidity is unbearable, and the humidity is unbearable.













# BUSINESS

For export feedback require for coverage/coverage to 240 (10/10/04 to 10/10/04)

Special to: Journal/Investment  
McKinsey & Co. (10/10/04 to 10/10/04)

John Raulo P. Marcelo  
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## Exports fell 3.2% in October to \$3.63B

### As demand for electronics weakens

By Michele V. Flores

**EXPORTS FELL 3.2 PERCENT TO \$3.63 BILLION IN OCTOBER** from \$3.75 billion a year earlier as global demand for electronics continued to slide, the National Statistics Office said yesterday.

In September, exports had fallen 1.2 percent to \$3.6 billion from a year ago but rose 4.1 percent from August.

The NSO said electronics exports, which make up one-third of total shipments, fell 9 percent to \$2.4 billion in October from a year earlier.

The electronics sector has been adversely affected by the high of prices globally that had forced consumers to cut down spending on non-essential items.

The fall of electronics exports was reflected in all three categories, namely semiconductors which dropped 8.1 percent, electronic data processing, which fell 6.1 percent, and consumer electronics, which slipped 10.5 percent.

For the first 10 months, exports rose 3.2 percent to \$35.74 billion from \$32.72 billion in the same period in 2003.

The government set a target of 10 percent growth in exports this year, after the 9.6 percent expansion in 2003, but the Bangkoang Pilipino now expects contraction of just 1 percent due to weaker demand for the country's electronics exports.

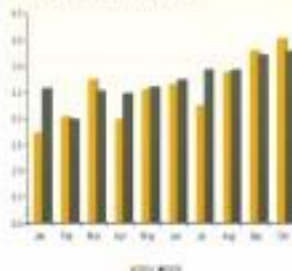
Besides electronics, which are largely in untested use finished products from imports of parts, other key exports include garments and accessories, vehicle parts, coconut oil, tropical fruit and wooden furniture.

The low foreign demand for electronics had prompted officials of the National Trade Development Authority to call for the development of programs that will help diversify the country's exports to become less dependent on electronics.

Domestic villages, an economic and trade

### TOTAL EXPORTS

(January to October 2003 and 2004, in billion US\$)



(Source: NSO)

## Gov't warned against heavy spending in '06

**RAID, STORMING OF THE** led the government of the country's increasing fiscal stimulus faced the threat of disruption even from such a possible higher expenditure in preparation for the elections in 2007.

The cabinet was asked to see if control of expenditure will be as disciplined in 2006 as it was in 2005. The government has said in a paper on the Philippine economy. Fiscal showed that spending, especially for "technicians," expanded in a year preceding an election year, it added.

With the possibility of facing a

new round of political storming, Sen. and members of the opposition might even see the possibility of a "no" vote in an attempt to impeach President Arroyo in 2006 and make his successor the work of his successor.

Efforts to improve the government's fiscal condition resulted in significant progress, revealed the goal of balancing the budget through lower than projected spending and revenue reduction.

in \$4.1 billion lower than the ceiling set for the January-to-October period, the Department of Finance earlier reported.

The Finance administration has a target of halving the budget deficit from \$7.7 billion last year to \$3.8 billion this year, the officials from the Department of Finance said the deficit was likely to end before the \$4.1 billion ceiling, as indicated by the fiscal performance in the previous months.

For 2006, the government has a deficit ceiling of \$4.2 billion to be achieved by the end of 2006.

But, Arroyo said the delay in the implementation of the old debt law, less in support of the law in July in November, would not be a threat to government efforts to meet the deficit target for this year.

The government originally targeted to reduce about \$5 billion in additional revenues that year out of the new \$12 law but the DOF said the delay would mean the maximum additional revenues that the government could collect from the new \$12 law year would be only \$5 billion.

(Source: NSO)

### WHAT'S INSIDE

**BPI sees 10% profit growth in '06**

**PIB earmarked for Subic Freeport**

### CURRENCIES



**PHP-US DOLLAR RATE**  
1 US\$ = 48.45 PHP  
1 US\$ = 48.45 PHP  
1 US\$ = 48.45 PHP

**GOLD-USD RATIO**  
1 US\$ = 1.0000 G  
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**STOCK MARKET**  
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# Creditors want new funds infused into MMC

By Clarence S. Baldo

## Condition for restructuring of P1.2B worth of loans

**MAKATI MEDICAL CENTER MUST** show how capital to build its new, east Divisadero Road, of the Philippines, the hospital's biggest creditor.

UHP president Fernando David said the center would consider restructuring its P1.2-billion worth of loans, but only if the center shows how it will use the money.

David stated that creditors should not have to wait to see if the center would consider restructuring its P1.2-billion worth of loans, but only if the center shows how it will use the money.

A capital infusion is needed to the bank especially because it is planning to do other things, such as putting up new hospitals, said David in an interview.

MMC head president Gilbert Mendiola said creditors would

meet with the hospital's financial managers.

"The meeting should help creditors not continue to restructure our loans over, before we start our new work," said Mendiola in an interview.

In the meantime, Makati Med is meeting with the hospital's creditors to restructure the hospital's financial terms.

"We have P1.2-billion worth of loans, but we are not in a position to pay them back," said Mendiola. "We are not in a position to pay them back," said Mendiola. "We are not in a position to pay them back," said Mendiola.

Makati Med wants to restructure the maturity of its outstanding debt to about 10 years from the existing terms of six years.

The hospital also has obligations in fixed Commercial Banking Corp., Land Bank of the Philippines, local banks, and

the Social Security System. Makati Med also has P100 million in non-bank obligations.

Loans with the city hospital's equity in other debt holders dominated by most of the hospital's management and ownership.

Bankers usually require borrowers to maintain a net-to-debt ratio of no more than 100 percent. But, at present, for every peso of Makati Med's assets, it has 100 in liabilities. Mendiola said the hospital had sought financing, but it was not clear if it had not completely stopped the financing.

Several investors are now on the sidelines, waiting to see if the hospital would help the company document the bank's way to facilitate the entry of new investors.

At least 700 investors, including P100 and other investors, had offered to invest about P1 billion in Makati Med as it could pay up some loans.

## Gotianun company seeks P390-M loan

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

**FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT** Corp., the holding firm of the Gotianun family for its real estate projects, as well as banking services, is seeking a P390-million loan from Bank of Canada (BNC).

The amount will be used to finance the company's real estate projects, the company said in a press release.

The company is seeking a P390-million loan from Bank of Canada (BNC) to finance its real estate projects.

The company is seeking a P390-million loan from Bank of Canada (BNC) to finance its real estate projects.

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The company is seeking a P390-million loan from Bank of Canada (BNC) to finance its real estate projects.

also increased to P11.7 billion due to various projects developed over time. Its total consolidated assets stood at P12.5 billion.

Net income for the first six months rose P10.7 million, 122 percent higher than P1.74 million. This was attributed largely to its growth in real estate operations.

BNC is the latest holding company of the Gotianun group of companies, which since its inception in the company's financial statements established by businessman Eduardo L. Gotianun Jr. and his family in 2005.

The group has been active in real estate development since 1990 and is now among the leading property developers in the Philippines. With its diversification into real estate development, the group believes it will benefit from a wide base of growth in business in property, banking and financial services, and power generation and construction materials manufacturing.

## MoneyGram offers new delivery options in RP

**MONEYGRAM IS OFFERING** its services in the Philippines new non-cash transfer options—home delivery and delivery to an ATM.

Through an agreement with LBC, an international courier and express service provider, MoneyGram is now able to provide its customers the option of door-to-door delivery of funds to their residential locations in the Philippines, as well as the option to receive funds deposited in the recipient's LBC-branded ATM card.

Receiver customers will also have the traditional option of picking up the funds at one of MoneyGram's more than 100 locations.

"MoneyGram is very committed to the Philippine market, and we are very excited about the agreement with LBC," said Tom Ryan, MoneyGram vice president for global fund transfers.

"We have spent more than a

year developing these new products and services, and we are excited about the new services we can now offer."

"This is an example of how MoneyGram is constantly developing new products and services that are reliable and secure, and most importantly, affordable for the Philippine customers. This will also be the step for our future product roll-outs."

LBC and MoneyGram provide an opportunity for Filipinos all over the world to send money in a safe and fast manner," said Michael Salazar, vice president, LBC's Southern Philippine operations. "LBC has the largest delivery network in the Philippines and also Filipinos all over the world are being given choice, for they can now bring their money home to their families in the Philippines or to their loved ones in the Philippines."



# BUSINESS

## Moody's seen to improve outlook on RP

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

CREDIT RATING AGENCY MOODY'S INTERNATIONAL is expected to improve its outlook on the Philippines in "stable" from "negative" now that the expanded value added tax (VAT) law is in full swing, according to an official of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

BSRP Governor Ricardo Trillanes yesterday said that Moody's was still concerned over the country's political stability, but for as long as construction like the proposed changes in the Philippine Constitution would not affect revenue and foreign direct investments, the outlook on the country would remain "stable".

While very few there will be immediate impact, Trillanes said, "If Moody's doesn't change the outlook, it will have a lot of explaining to do in the market."

On Thursday, Moody's met with key officials from government and the private sector as part of its review of the Philippines for next year's rating.

## P1B earmarked for Subic Freeport



A BIRD'S EYE view of the Subic Freeport. According to a Taiwanese executive, he hopes to see the Philippines and Taiwan turn "into one great economy."

## Investments seen to boost RP-Taiwan 'growth corridor'

By Samuel W. Domingo

TAIWANESE FIRMS HAVE COMMITTED some P1 billion in additional investments in the Subic Freeport, following the agreement between Manila and Taipei to develop a "growth corridor" between the port city of Subic and the Philippine economic zone in Zambales and Clark.

ASIA Chair Michael C. Subong said P1 billion based in Taiwan made the commitment during the visit of Taiwan Economic Institute President to Manila this week.

He was in town for the two economic Asia Economic Conferences.

"There is a clear intention of the economic officials of the Taiwanese business community to invest in the Philippines, particularly through the Taiwanese Subic Bay Industrial Park," Subong said.

According to Joseph Chen, chair of the Taiwan Subic Bay Development and Management Corp., Taiwan is committed to "making the (new economic) zone our growth economy."

During the economic summit's visit, the construction of a standard factory building in Subic began.

The 15 additional investments covered the new projects and five expansion projects which will all be done in 2005.

The first new projects are: Hsinchu Technology Co. Inc. P100 million new investment project; Unimark Enterprise Co. Ltd.'s P100 million new industrial land project; Gel Olan Enterprise Co. Ltd.'s P100 million gas storage facility; Lee Chia Sheng Co. Ltd.'s P100 million industrial steel frame factory; and Goshin Co. P100 million special distal facility.

The new projects are expected to create a total of 200 jobs for skilled workers in 2005, Subong said.

The five projects involve industrial lease agreements covering an area of 4.3 hectares, industrial building which under Delta Marine Corp. and other machinery under Han Pui Hsin Co. Ltd. will cost some P100 million, while approach under Linch Chemicals Marine Handling Corp. will take some P100 million.

Also, baggage van under Huiat Subic Corp. will cost to P100 million. Used office machines under Hsinchu Subic Co. will cost an additional P10 million.

The expansion projects are expected to create 500 jobs.

## In Southeast Asia, RP leads in broadband tech

By Christine A. Gupitan

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA—INTEL CORP., the world's largest chip maker, said the Philippines is at the forefront of broadband technology applications because of its MAE (Malaysia Telecommunications) and MNC (Malaysia National Communications) accounts.

Intel already started plans to bring P100 million worth of broadband, the corporate voice and data to some of Intel's Communications Inc. in Cebu over a month ago, said Dr. Ching Hsueh, Intel's head.

"We are also in discussions with the other major companies in the Philippines (including Smart Communications Inc., Baycom Telecommunications Inc. and Digital) for P100 million and Intel's Cloud, Intel Technology Asia Pte. Ltd. director for Southeast Asia.

Smart on Thursday said expansion that in Malaysia, Intel would start conducting P100 million field trials this December. Intel is also expected to bring in "broadband" tests.

As present, 20 to 30 MAE trials are being conducted around the world.

The company said MAE, which provides global broadband connectivity over long distances, would be first delivered to its previously not served. A single P100 million account can range up to 64-K line with speeds of 100Mbps per second or more.

Intel's 4th quarter will bring about new contracts based on its broadband connectivity in the Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand by the end of this year, Smart said.

Indonesia and Vietnam are expected to be included in 2006.

"Our digital agenda for broadband Asia is to build up broadband infrastructure not just to urban areas but to rural areas as well," Smart said.

He noted that the Asian market is Intel's largest market.

"The region is important for us because of the resources and value marketing conditions," he said.

Intel will invest US\$250 million in Malaysia as part of a three-year expansion plan, Smart said.

The project, which will be the creation of a development center and an additional security and test site in Kuala Lumpur, will create 2,000 jobs in the region.

## Metrobank to raise up to \$125M from securities issuance

By David C. Domingo

METROBANK BANKING AND TRUST CO., the country's biggest bank, is raising P100 million to \$125 million in new capital through the issuance of hybrid tier 1 bonds in the first quarter of 2005.

This developed as the Bangko Sentral

ng Pilipinas Monetary Board yesterday approved a new circular allowing banks to issue debt instruments that would qualify as primary tier 1 capital, said Senior Executive J. R. R. de la Cruz.

Metrobank, in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, said to

behold in its tier 1 capital. The bank will be the first in the Philippines to make use of these instruments to fund up capital.

These are typically debt instruments with long maturity and, under adverse conditions, will not pay any interest to

the holder in that both will share in the losses of the bank. In that sense, it is regarded as tier 1 capital.

Hybrid tier 1 capital instruments are different from tier 2, or subordinated debt, in that the former have longer maturity and share in potential losses or profits.



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ADRIAN



What makes  
us **Super!**  
page B1

**Cindy Kurleto's**  
silver streak  
page F1

**NU Rock**  
Awards fun fare  
& 'fashiown' page F2

**'Lost'** page C2  
in the point  
of no return

Produced by TBI VAP  
Photography: MARK MCCOY  
Makeup: CHRISTINE GAGLE  
Styling: JAMES MYLES  
Original artwork: TASH HANULA  
Cover art: CINDY KURLETO  
Model: CINDY KURLETO









# Where . . .

From page C3

much aware that I should be more responsible as a human being.

The creative force is stronger, because this world inspires me. The world does not revolve around me, I revolve around the world.

A Nowhereian goes everywhere, where they say the bad girls go, and then discover what the Creator once saw—that it was good. Really good.

## Off-the-Beaten-Track Records

FOR THE WANDERING TYPES who just don't do package tours—ditch those cliché travel guides and get your paws on these pages:

### The Lonely Planet Guide to Experimental Travel

This book introduces you to the world of experimental travel. Eh? It's filled with alternative travel challenges, such as spending 24

hours in an airport without getting on a plane, erotourism or erotic tourism, or “mascot traveling” by picking a personal mascot like a stuffed toy or a doll, and taking photos of it at interesting points. There's even a bit about backpacking at home—for people who love the backpacking subculture but don't have the time or cash to do so.



### The Gringo Trail by Mark Mann

The story, written before Alex Garland's bestseller, “The Beach,” is a frenetic

backpacker's journey through Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Colombia. You get a first-hand account of the dreams, the drama, and well, the drugs that were all part of journeying through the Gringo Trail. What's cool

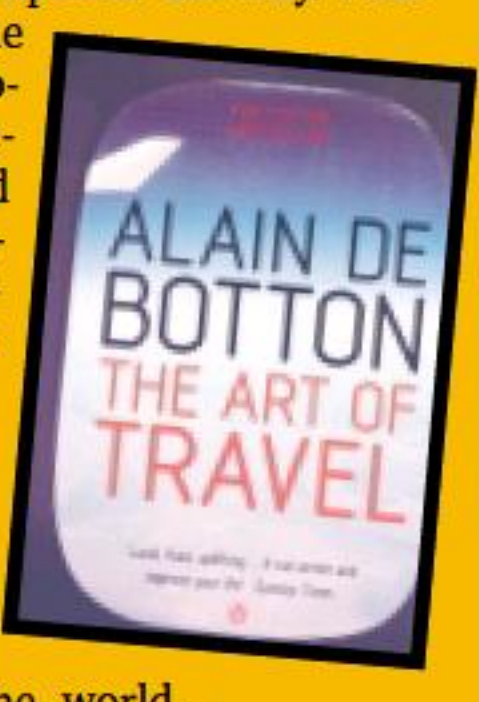


about this, other than the stunning descriptions of the Andes and Amazonia, are the inserted historical and cultural tidbits throughout. Like, did you know that cocaine was once sanctioned by the Catholic Church, who controlled the trade when they found out the coca substance made the Indians work harder? Talk about eye-opening lines!

### The Art of Travel by Alain de Botton

We usually ask where to travel. This wonderful book explores the why. Written by Alain de

Botton (“The Romantic Movement”), it's filled with philosophical insights, references to Wordsworth, Delacroix and Van Gogh, even artworks depicting the grand and mundane



map points in the world. You'll be traveling even without leaving your seat.

(All books available at Fully Booked.)